

# Karankawa

The Karankawa lived in small tribes. They lived on the Texas coast stretching from Galveston Island to around the city of Corpus Christi. The name, Karankawa, possibly means "dog-lovers" because they bred coyote-like and fox-like dogs. The Karankawa lived in 10 to 12 foot-wide round houses made of poles that were covered by hides and mats. The houses were easy to move and could fit in their canoes.

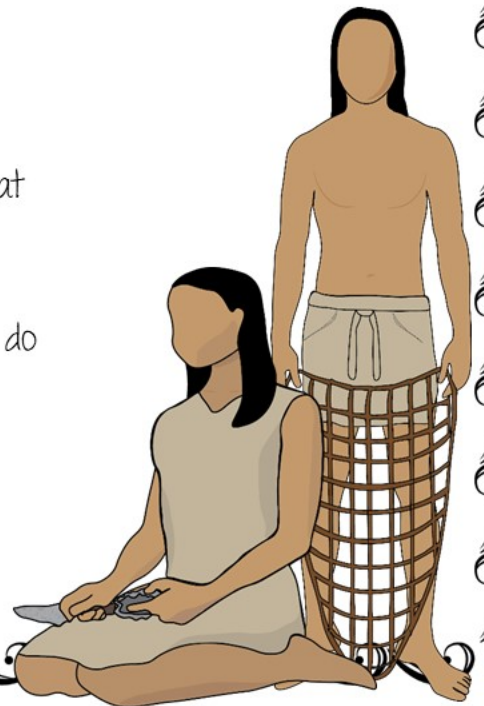
The Karankawa moved with the seasons for their food. In the winter, they lived along the coast when large schools of fish came into the shallow waters. The Karankawa used traps to catch fish. During the winter, they liked to eat clams and oysters. In the summer, they moved away from the water and hunted for bison, deer, rabbits, turtles, alligators, turkeys and even grasshoppers. The Karankawa also collected edible roots, plants and berries.

The Karankawa were very tall, over six feet, and they hunted with bows and arrows that were six feet long. They coated their bodies with shark oil to protect themselves from mosquitoes.

Much of the information about the Karankawa is biased - it is based on documents written by their enemies. A few primary sources exist from Cabeza de Vaca, a Spanish explorer who lived with the Karankawa after being shipwrecked in Galveston.

## Stop and Discuss:

1. Where were the Karankawa located in Texas? What region of Texas did they live in?
2. Describe the shelter used by the Karankawa.
3. Describe the diet of the Karankawa.
4. Were the Karankawa nomadic or sedentary? How do you know that?
5. What are two interesting facts about the Karankawa?







*Painting of a Karankawa settlement along the Texas Gulf Coast.*

Discuss with your partner:

1. What do you notice about the picture first? Describe what you see.
2. Describe the landscape you see in the image.
3. Describe the jobs you see people doing in the image.
4. If you could listen to a conversation between two of the people, what would you hear?
5. What sentence from the reading could you use to annotate this image?



# Atakapan

The Karankawa lived in small tribes in East Texas and Louisiana along the Gulf of Mexico. The Atakapan people were made up of several bands of people living along the coast. They called themselves the "Ishak" and identified as either the "Sunrise People" or the "Sunset People". The Sunrise people lived the area that now makes up Louisiana, while the Sunset People lived in what is now Texas. They also associated animals with different smaller bands of their people. These animals included the alligator, the eagle, the red bird and the panther.

Living along the coast, the Atakapan ate shellfish and fish. The women gathered bird eggs, the American lotus for its roots and seeds, as well as other wild plants. They also cultivated maize (local corn) for food. Women also prepared the meats, made clothing, and helped the tribe survive.

The men hunted for food including deer, bears, and bison. Just like other people living in the area, they used the hides from the animals for clothing and shelter. The men made their tools for hunting and fishing: bows and arrows, fish spears with bone-tipped points, and flint-tipped spears. Similar to the Karankawa, the Atakapans used alligator oil to repel mosquitoes. They used dugout canoes to travel along the bayous and close to shore.

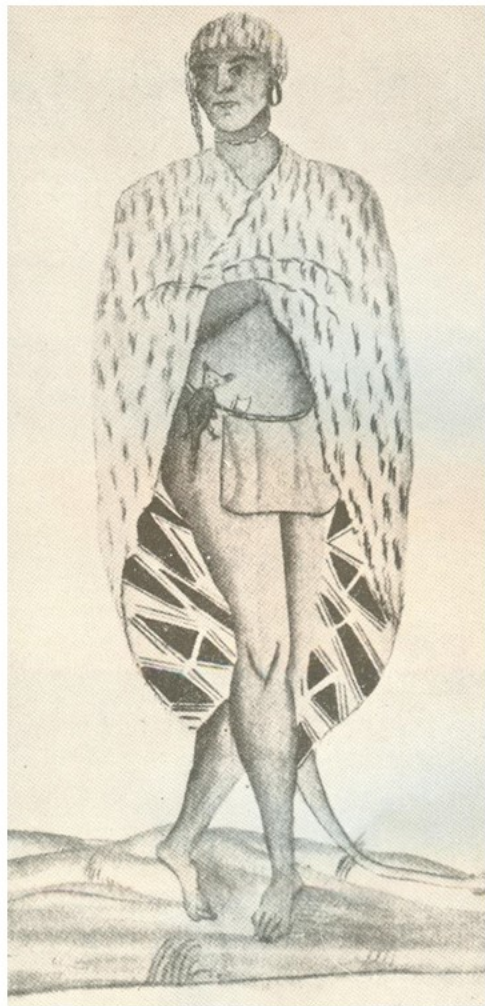
In the summer months, the Atakapan lived along the coast. In winters, they moved inland and lived in villages of houses made of pole and thatch. Some Atakapan lived in bearskin tents. The homes of chiefs and medicine men were erected on earthwork mounds made by several previous cultures including the Caddo.

### Stop and Discuss:

1. Where were the Atakapan located in Texas? What region of Texas did they live in?
2. Describe the shelter used by the Atakapan.
3. Describe the diet of the Atakapan
4. Were the Atakapan nomadic or sedentary? How do you know that?
5. What are two interesting facts about the Atakapan?



# Atakapan



An Attakapas, by Alexandre De Batz, 1735

"You see here about one-half of the Atakapas Nation; the other half is farther on. We are in the habit of dividing ourselves into two or three groups in order to follow the buffalo, which in the spring go back into the west, and in autumn come down into these parts; there are herds of these buffalo, which go sometimes as far as the Missouri; we kill them with arrows; our young hunters are very skilful at this hunting. You understand, moreover, that these animals are in very great numbers, and as tame as if they were raised on a farm; consequently, we are very careful never to frighten them. When they stay on a prairie or in a forest, we camp near them in order to accustom them to seeing us, and we follow all their wanderings so that they cannot get away from us. We use their meat for food and their skins for clothing. I have been living with these people for about eleven years; I am happy and satisfied here, and have not the least desire to return to Europe. I have six children whom I love a great deal, and with whom I want to end my days." – interview with a Frenchman living among the Atakapan in 1791 by Louis LeClerc Milfort

## Discuss with your partner:

1. What do you notice about the picture first? Describe what you see.
2. Describe the clothing you see in the image.
3. Read the primary source quote - what can you learn about the Atakapan from someone who lived with them?



## Southeastern Native Texans

# Caddo

The Caddo lived in eastern Texas along the Red and Sabine River. They lived together in large groups of people called confederacies. These confederacies had both political and spiritual leaders. One unique aspect of the Caddo was that their society was **matrilineal** - family roots were based on the women and their children.

The houses of the Caddo were tall, cone-shaped grass huts. The Caddo wove grass mats that were used to cover the floors and were hung as room dividers. The Spanish explorers found the homes of the Caddo familiar because in addition to having "rooms," the Caddo had chairs and beds for furniture. A majority of the Caddo were **sedentary**, and lived in villages.

The Caddo were farmers and grew corn, beans, pumpkins and sunflowers. They hunted deer, buffalo and small game as well as fishing from dugout canoes. The Caddo used dogs to help carry their belongings. The Caddo in Texas also mined underground for salt that was used in their cornbread, soups and stews.

The Caddo made basket traps and pottery. They also made farming tools like hoes and shovels from wood, animal bones and mussel shells. The Caddo even had axes made with heavy stone heads for chopping trees.

The name Texas comes from a Caddoan word *Tejas* or *Tayshas* that means "friend."

### Stop and Discuss:

1. Where were the Caddo located in Texas?  
What region of Texas did they live in?
2. Describe the shelter used by the Caddo.
3. Describe the diet of the Caddo.
4. What are two interesting facts about the Caddo?





Discuss with your partner:

1. List 3 details you see in this image.
2. What details do you see in the background of this image?
3. What jobs are different people doing in the image?
4. Does this image show a sedentary or nomadic lifestyle? How do you know?
5. What other aspects of their culture are evident from this image?



## Gulf Coastal Native Texans

# Coahuiltecan

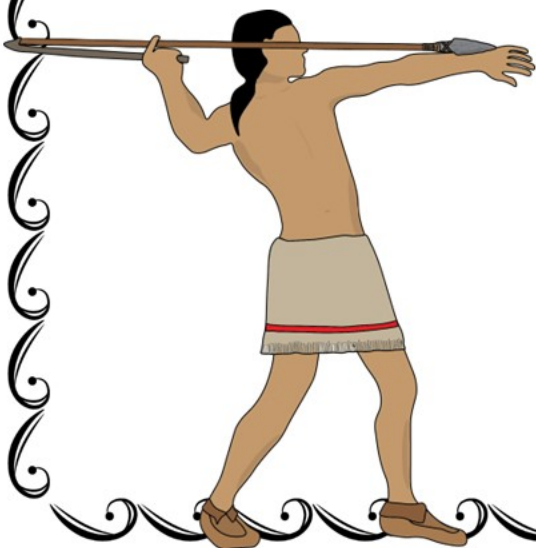
The Coahuiltecan were actually a group of people that lived in southern Texas and northern Mexico. They were **nomadic** and searched for their food. The Coahuiltecan lived in small shelters when they stayed for any length of time in one area. If a stop was only for a day or two, they built temporary wind-breaks or lean-tos.

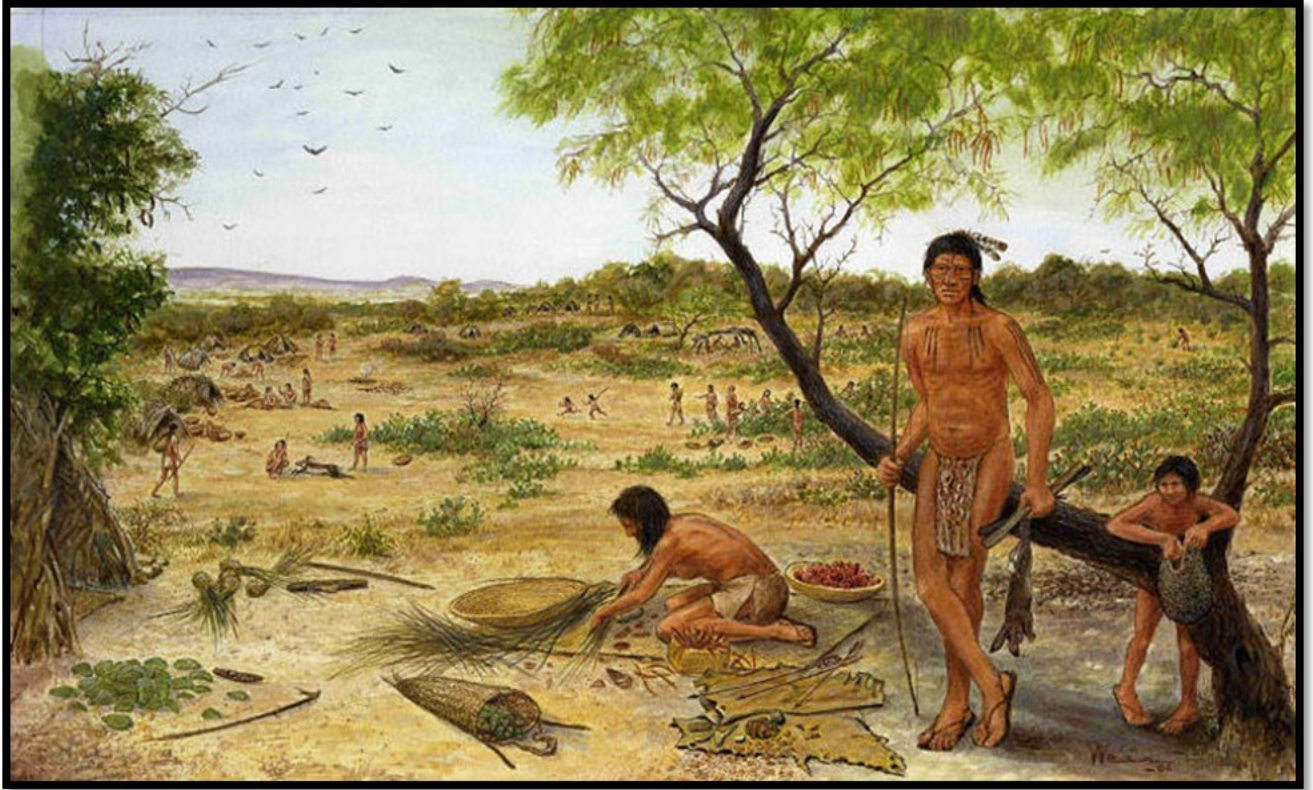
The Coahuiltecan used bows and arrows and simple traps to catch their food. They hunted deer, rabbits and small pigs, as well as lizards, snakes and insects. They collected plants, roots and fruits, especially from the cactus.

The Coahuiltecan wove baskets and sleeping mats from grasses. While they didn't wear many clothes, they did wear sandals woven from the fibers of a plant.

### Stop and Discuss:

1. Where were the Coahuiltecan located in Texas? What region of Texas did they live in?
2. Describe the shelter used by the Coahuiltecan.
3. Describe the diet of the Coahuiltecan.
4. What are two interesting facts about the Coahuiltecan?





## Discuss with your partner:

1. What do you notice about the picture first? Describe what you see.
2. Describe the landscape you see in the image.
3. Describe the jobs you see people doing in the image.
4. If you could write a caption for this image, what would it say?

*“this is a fruit that is of the size of an egg, and they are red and black and of very good flavor. They eat them three months of the year, in which they eat nothing else, because at the time they gathered them there came to them other Indians from farther on who brought bows, to trade and barter with them.” – Cabeza de Vaca, a Spanish explorer, describing eating prickly pear cactus.*

5. What does this quote reveal about life for the Coahuiltecan?
6. How are the Coahuiltecan adapting to their environment?



## Plains Native Texans

# Comanche

The Comanche was one of many nomadic tribes that followed the buffalo herds through Texas, Oklahoma and New Mexico. The name Comanche means "enemy" in Ute, a neighboring tribe. The Comanche lived in tipis made of long poles and covered in buffalo hides. The tipi was so easy to move that an entire village could be packed up to move in an hour.

The Comanche hunted with bows and arrows. Everything in their lives relied on what they hunted, especially buffalo and deer. The Comanche's tipi coverings, leggings, long dresses, winter robes and moccasins were all made from buffalo hides and deerskin. They also hunted rabbits, fished in rivers and gathered nuts, berries and wild potatoes.

While most images of the Comanche are on horseback, they walked everywhere before the Europeans brought the horse to the Americas. Once they were introduced to the horse, the Comanche became expert riders and dangerous mounted fighters. Even though they were warriors, the Comanche also made copper and silver jewelry.

### Stop and Discuss:

1. Where were the Comanche located in Texas? What region of Texas did they live in?
2. Describe the shelter used by the Comanche.
3. Describe the diet of the Comanche.
4. What are two interesting facts about the Comanche?





George Catlin, *Buffalo Hunt Chase*

Discuss with your partner:

1. What do you notice about the picture first? Describe what you see.
2. Describe the landscape you see in the image.
3. What action do you see in the image? What does it reveal about the life of the Comanche?



## Plains Native Texans

# Wichita

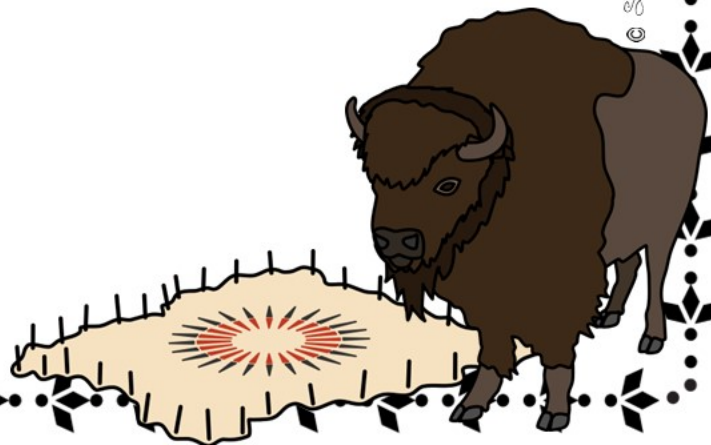
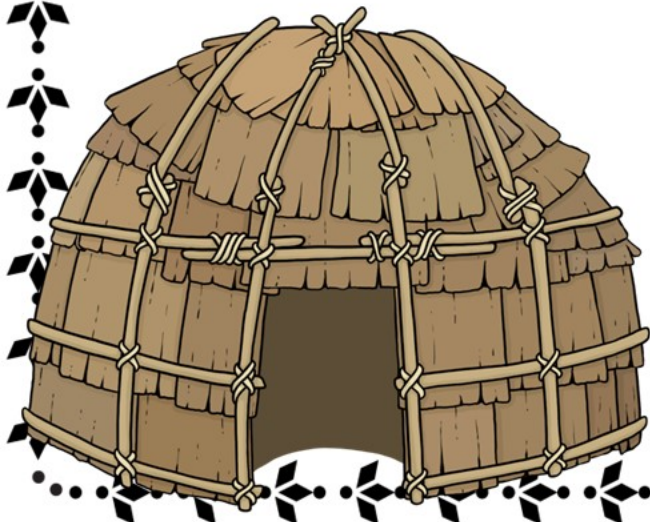
The Wichita lived in northern Texas and southern Oklahoma. When the tribes followed the buffalo herds, they lived in temporary **tipis**. The Wichita also built permanent bee-hive shaped homes covered in thatched grasses when they stayed in one location. The Wichita also didn't have horses until after the Europeans arrived but they used dogs to pull drag-sleds called a *travois* to move their belongings around.

The Wichita were farmers and grew corn, beans, squash and pumpkins. They gathered fruits and nuts and hunted deer and small game. The seasonal buffalo hunt was very important to the Wichita. They used the buffalo hide for clothing, moccasins and tipis. The Wichita also hunted with bows and arrows.

The Wichita were known for their pottery, painted buffalo hides, and beadwork.

### Stop and Discuss:

1. Where were the Wichita located in Texas? What region of Texas did they live in?
2. Describe the shelter used by the Wichita.
3. Describe the diet of the Wichita.
4. What are two interesting facts about the Wichita?



# Wichita



George Catlin, *Wichita Lodge, Thatched with Prairie Grass*

## Discuss with your partner:

1. What do you notice about the picture first? Describe what you see.
2. Describe the landscape you see in the image.
3. If you were actually in the image, what would you hear?
4. What does this image reveal about the way the Wichita people lived?



## Plains Native Texans

# Kiowa

The Kiowa lived in the Texas Panhandle and western Oklahoma. The Kiowa had moved south from Montana following buffalo. They hunted the buffalo on foot using bows and arrows, and spears. The hunters sometimes wore the fur of wolves and coyotes over their shoulders to **camouflage** them from their prey. Like many other Plains tribes, they used the **travois** pulled by dogs to carry their belongings.

When the Kiowa finally arrived in Texas, they were expert horsemen. They had some of the largest herds of horses in Texas. The easy to move **tipi** was their home. In addition to hunting the buffalo, they hunted antelope, deer, turkey, and small game. The Kiowa gathered wild berries and fruits, edible roots and nuts.

The Kiowa made a version of today's power bar for a high energy food supply that could be carried without spoiling. The Kiowa made **pemmican** by grinding dried meat into a powder. An equal amount of animal fat, and sometimes berries, were mixed with the meat powder and formed into bars. The Pemmican could be carried in leather pouches.

### Stop and Discuss:

1. Where were the Kiowa located in Texas? What region of Texas did they live in?
2. Describe the shelter used by the Kiowa.
3. Describe the diet of the Kiowa.
4. What are two interesting facts about the Kiowa?





**Title:** In Summer, Kiowa **Creator/Contributor:** Rinehart, F. A. (Frank A.)  
(photographer) **Copyright date:** 1898

Discuss with your partner:

1. List three details you see in the image.
2. How would you describe their clothing?
3. What do you think was important to the Kiowa based on this image?



## Plains Native Texans

# Apache

The Apache that lived in west Texas and New Mexico had actually moved south into the area from Canada. The name "apachu" was given to them from the Zuni tribes meaning "enemy." The Apache referred to themselves as *Dine'* meaning "the people." Originally, the Apache were farmers staying in one place to farm corn, beans, pumpkins and watermelons. Once the crops were harvested, the Apache would follow the buffalo herds on foot. The Apache used a *travois* pulled by dogs to carry their belongings.

There are two different groups of Apache living in Texas. One group is called the Mescalero Apache. They lived in West Texas. The Lipan Apache lived in Central Texas.

The Apache lived in permanent houses called **wickiups** that were wooden frames covered with hides and thatched grasses during the farming time. While hunting the buffalo herds with bows and arrows, and spears, they lived in easy to move **tipis**.

Once the horse was introduced in North America by Europeans, the Apache became almost totally **nomadic**. With the horse, the Apache could follow the buffalo herd greater distances. The Apache stopped farming and became hunter gatherers. The Apache also hunted deer, antelope and black bear and gathered cactus fruit and mesquite beans.

### Stop and Discuss:

1. Where were the Apache located in Texas? What region of Texas did they live in?
2. Describe the shelter used by the Apache.
3. Describe the diet of the Apache.
4. What are two interesting facts about the Apache?





*Lipan Apache encampment in the Texas hill country, George Nelson.*

Discuss with your partner:

1. What do you notice about the picture first? Describe what you see.
2. Describe the landscape you see in the image.
3. What types of jobs do you see different people doing?
4. What does this image reveal about the way Apache people lived?
5. Why do you think the Apache lived in tipis?



## Puebloan Native Texans

# Tigua

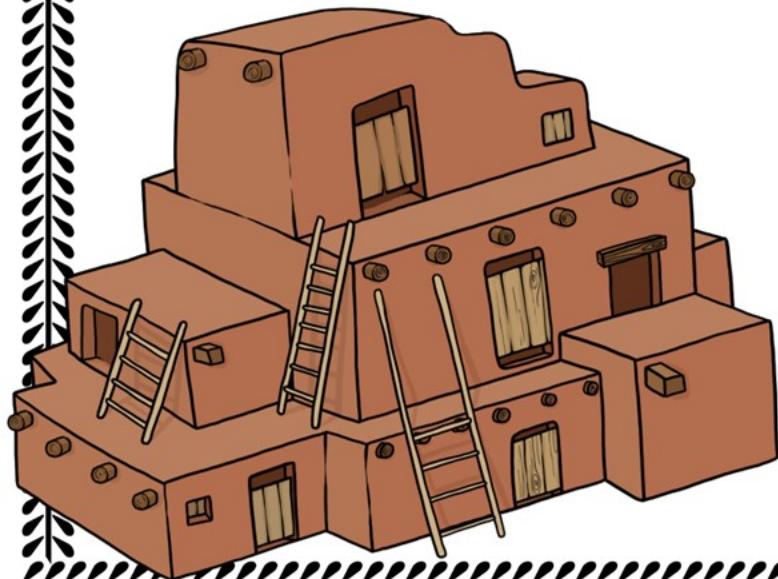
The Tigua were one of many Puebloan groups that lived in Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, southern Colorado, Utah and Old Mexico. These groups of people lived in villages of homes that reminded the Spanish explorers of their multi-storied homes in Spain. They started referring to these people as "pueblo," the Spanish word for town. Their homes were made of **adobe**, which is dried mud that can form building materials.

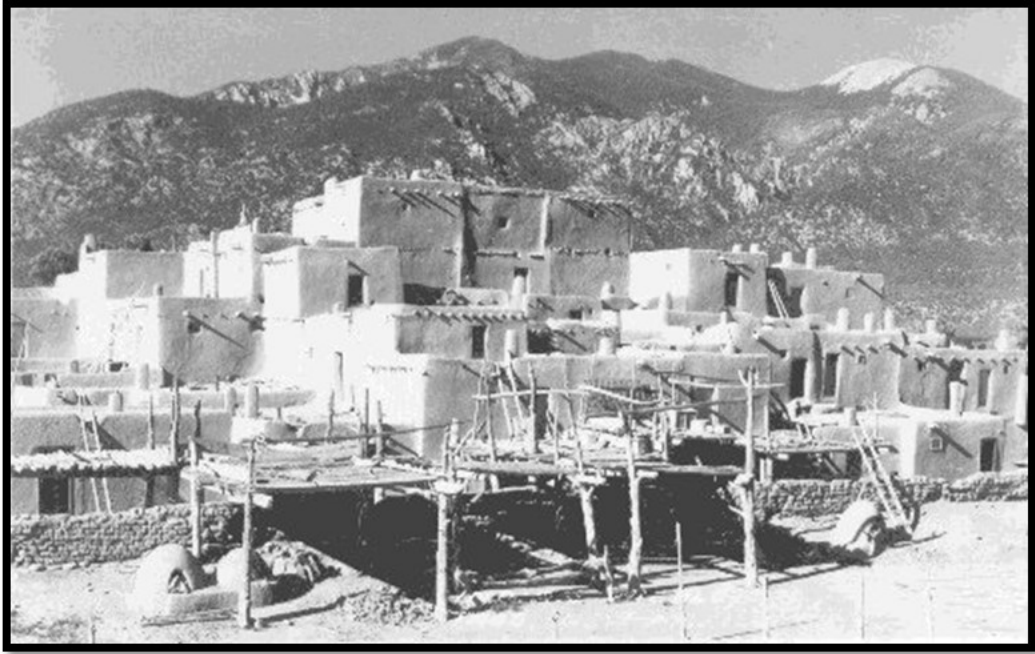
The Tigua were farmers and built their villages near rivers and streams for a water supply and in valleys for a longer growing season. The Tigua grew corn, beans and squash as well as cotton from which they wove cloth. The Tigua also grew gourds that were dried and hollowed out to use as storage containers along with their pottery. The Tigua hunted deer, antelope and bear and gathered berries.

Like the Caddo, the Tigua had a **matrilineal** society. Family roots were traced through the mother's side of the family. The Tigua are one of the few groups of Native Texans to be around today. The Tigua can be found in the El Paso area.

### Stop and Discuss:

1. Where were the Tigua located in Texas? What region of Texas did they live in?
2. Describe the shelter used by the Tigua.
3. Describe the diet of the Tigua.
4. What are two interesting facts about the Tigua?





Discuss with your partner:

1. List 3 details you see in this image.
2. Describe the landscape you see in the image.
3. How would you describe the house in this image?
4. Were these people nomadic or sedentary? How do you know that from this picture?
5. What benefit would the adobe brick material offer to the Tigua living in these types of houses?



## Puebloan Native Texans

# Jumano

The Jumano is a name for the Native Texans that lived in a large area of the southwest, including Texas. The Jumano of west Texas lived in large apartment-like villages made of **adobe** and stone. The Jumano were farmers that grew corn, beans and squash. They also grew cotton and wove cloth blankets. The Jumano did hunt buffalo and were known for the high quality of their buffalo hides. The Jumano made pottery that they used for storage of their food and seeds.

Other groups of Jumano were nomadic and played an important role as traders between Native American tribes. They traded corn, squash, and beans from the Southeastern cultures with animal skins and meat from the Plains cultures.

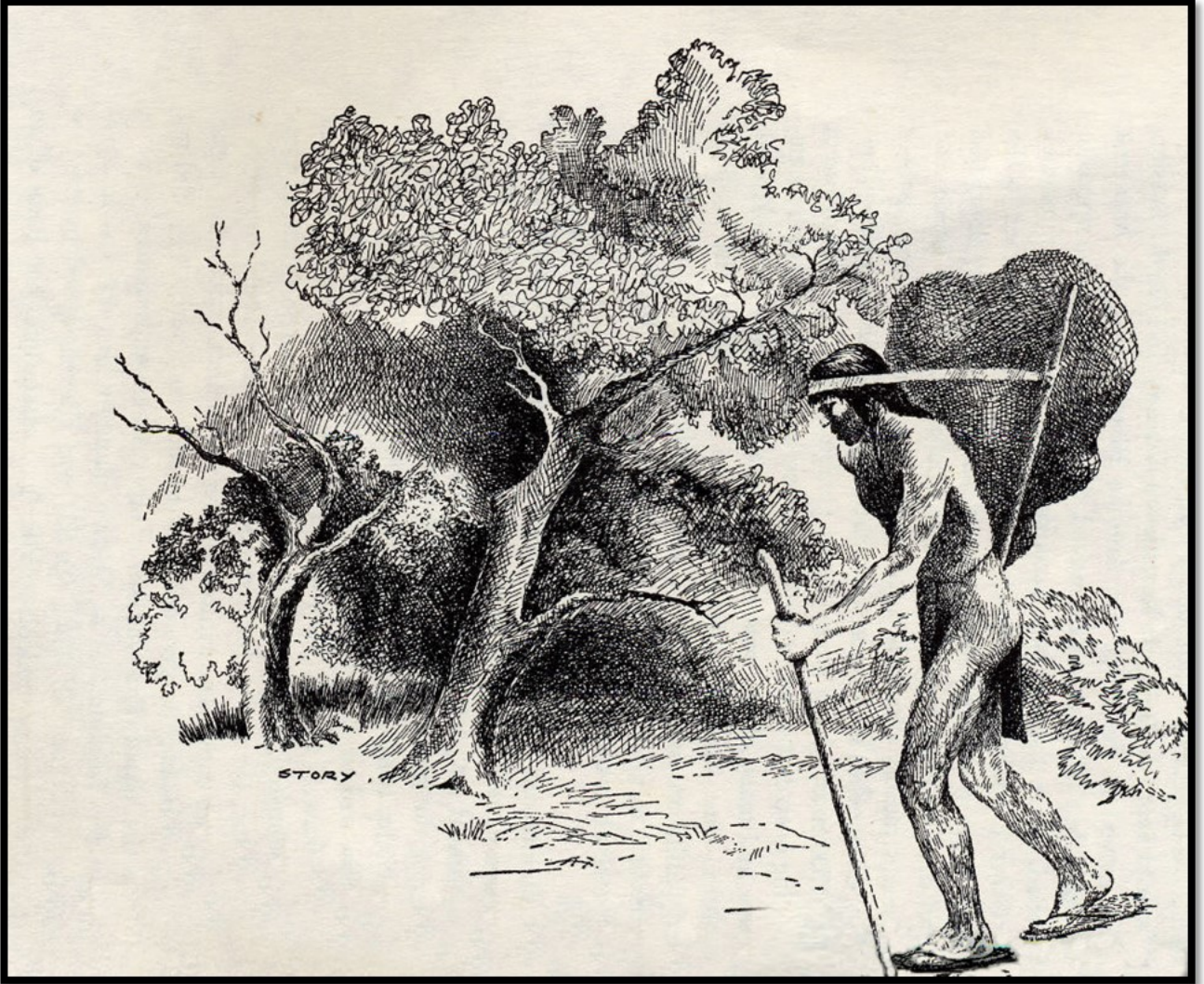
Their main trading partners lived along the Rio Grande. Their trading routes followed and linked several river systems, including the Pecos, Canadian, Brazos, and Colorado Rivers. Jumano painted striped markings on their face. This helped other Native American tribes recognize them as peaceful traders.



### Stop and Discuss:

1. Where were the Jumano located in Texas? What region of Texas did they live in?
2. Describe the shelter used by the Jumano.
3. Describe the diet of the Jumano.
4. What are two interesting facts about the Jumano?
5. Why were the Jumano important to other Native American tribes in Texas?





A South Texas native carries a heavy pack of supplies in a fiber net. Drawing by Hal Story.

## Discuss with your partner:

1. Describe what you see in the image.
2. Describe the landscape you see in the image.
3. What do you think is happening in this image?
4. What does this image reveal about the importance of the Jumano in Texas?



## Southeastern Native Texans

# Tonkawa

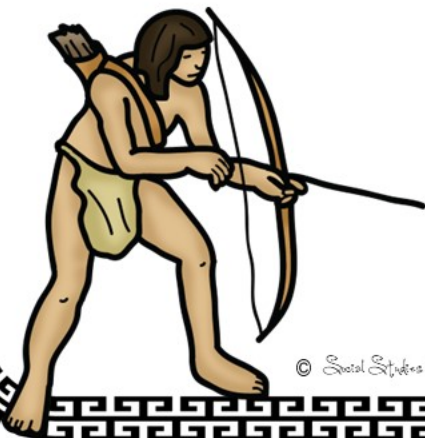
The Tonkawa lived in a large area of Texas bordering the land of the Karankawa, the Coahuilican and the Caddo. Tonkawa means "people of the Wolf." The Tonkawa seemed to borrow many ideas from the people around them. The Tonkawa lived in huts, wickiups and tipis, used the drag-sled *travois* to carry their belongings and hunted with bows and arrows.

The Tonkawa were hunters and gatherers. They hunted buffalo and deer, fished in the rivers and gathered fruits, nuts and roots. The Tonkawa traded with the Caddo for corn. They were known for their painted animal hides, and copper jewelry.

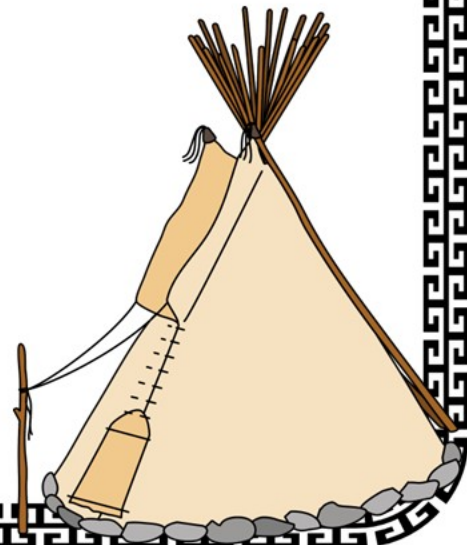
When the Tonkawa fought it wasn't to harm or kill the enemy but rather to show their bravery. During the battle, the warriors kept "counting coup" which meant touching an enemy without hurting him, stealing an enemy's weapon or horse, or causing the enemy to retreat.

### Stop and Discuss:

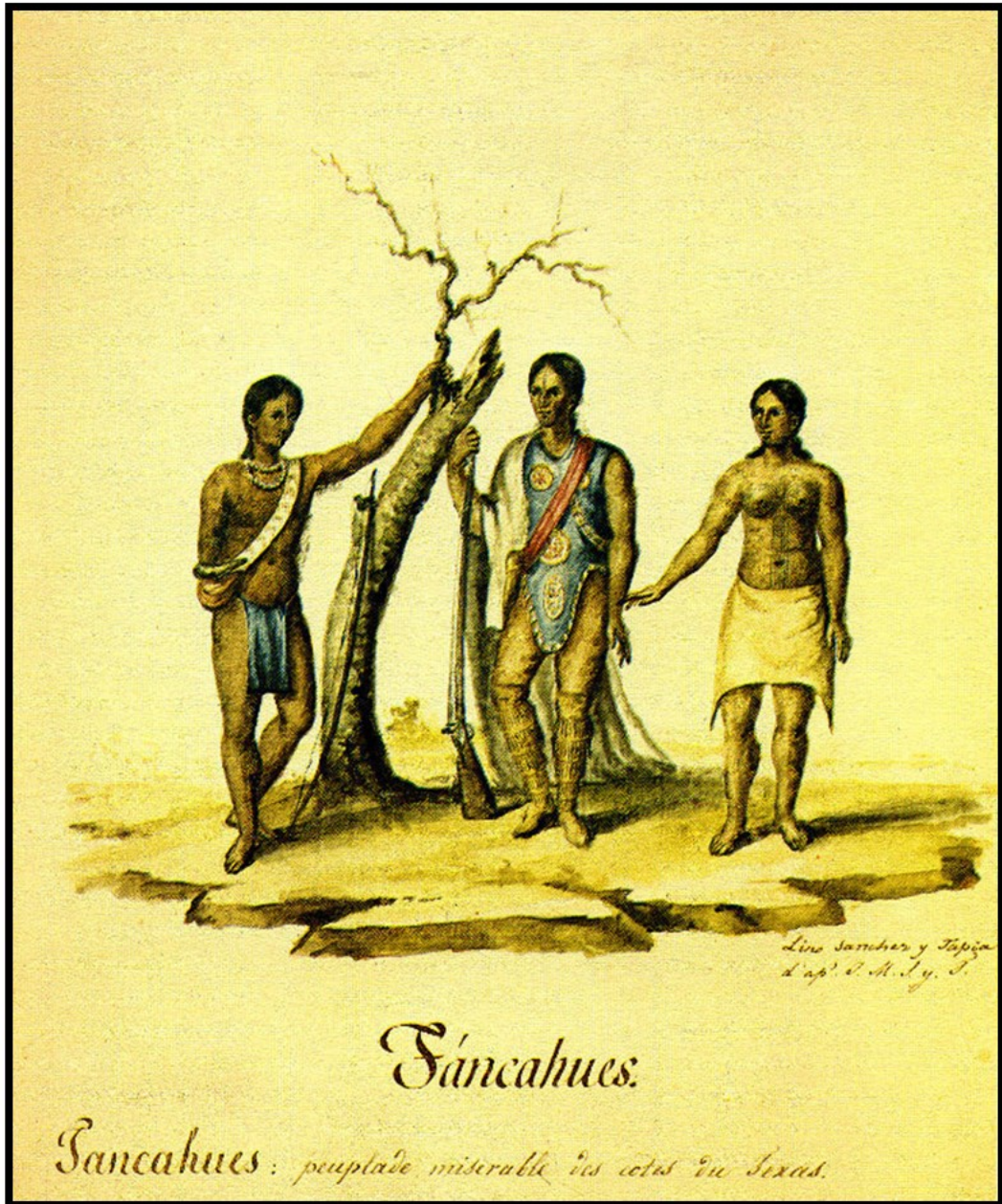
1. Where were the Tonkawa located in Texas? What region of Texas did they live in?
2. Describe the shelter used by the Tonkawa.
3. Describe the diet of the Tonkawa.
4. What are two interesting facts about the Tonkawa?



© Social Studies Spoons



# Tonkawa



Tonkawa Indians, as drawn during a 1828 expedition.

Discuss with your partner:

1. Describe the clothing of the Tonkawa in the image.
2. What does the clothing show you about the climate of the area where the Tonkawa live?